

BLACK WOMEN  
FOR WELLNESS

# THE TALE OF TWO STATES

NOURBESE FLINT



# BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

Black Women for Wellness is non profit  
committed to the empowerment, health  
and well-being of Black women and girls





# REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Reproductive Justice is the human right to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender, our work and our reproduction.” It is a framework created by women of color that expands beyond the womb, encompassing the many intersections of having a child, not having a child and being able to raise your family with dignity and respect. Reproductive justice centers human rights at its core and can only be achieved when all women and girls have the complete social, economic and political resources and power to make the best decisions for themselves and their families without shame, guilt or stigma.



# AGENDA

- California reproductive policy landscape
- Off Paper - Lay of the land for women of color/Black women
- Where do we need to go

# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH BILLS IN CALIFORNIA

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- Sex Education
  - Foster care: sexual health education
  - California Healthy Youth Act
- Abortion
  - Reproductive FACT Act
  - Direct Access to Reproductive Health Act
- Contraception
  - Annual Supply of Contraception
  - Contraceptive Coverage Equity Act
  - Telehealth Self Reporting



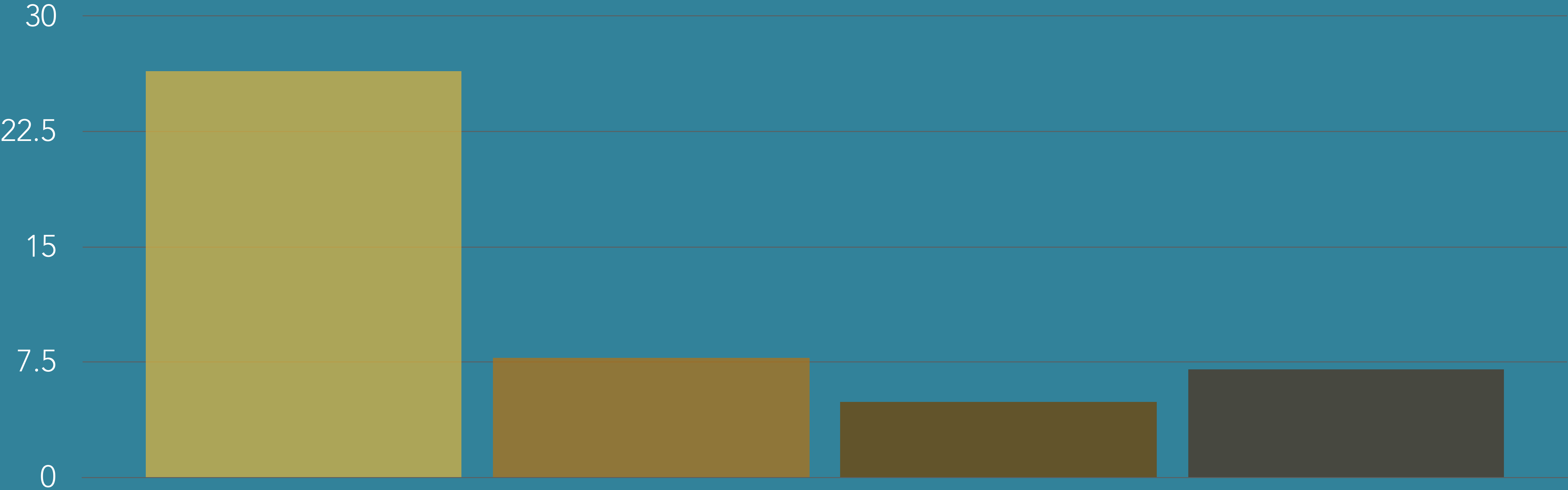


# OFF PAPER

- What does reproductive health look like for women of color
- Intersectional issues why we cannot ignore it.

# CALIFORNIA MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

African American Asian/Pacific Islander Latina White

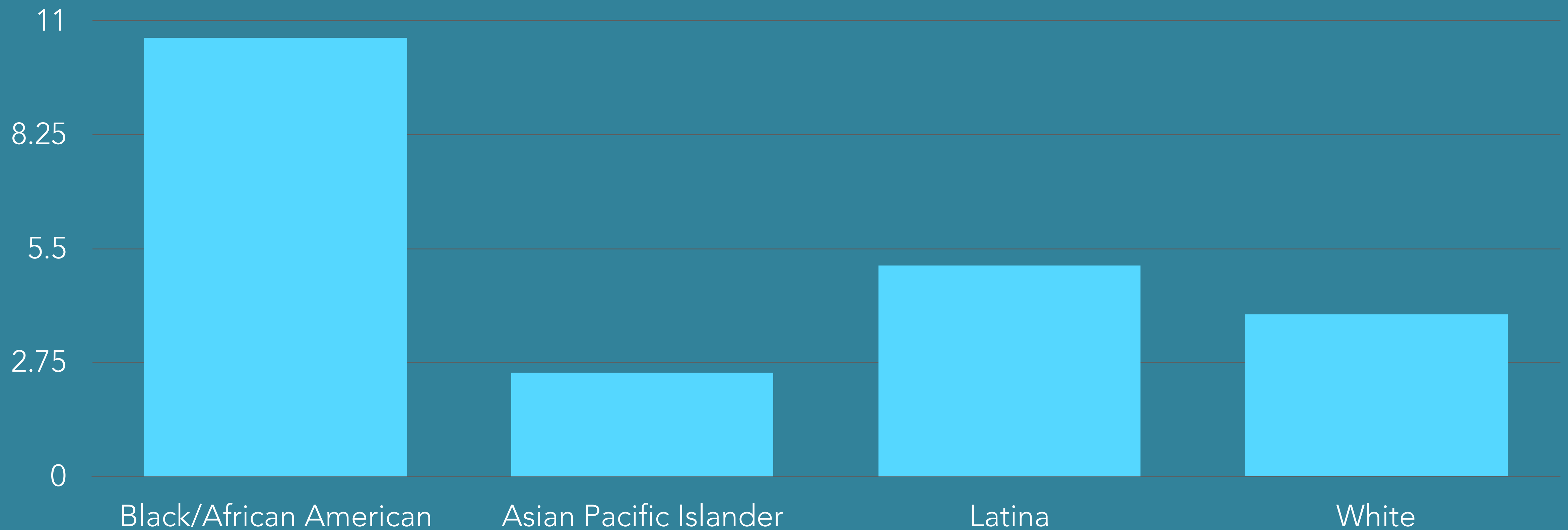


California Maternal Mortality Rate



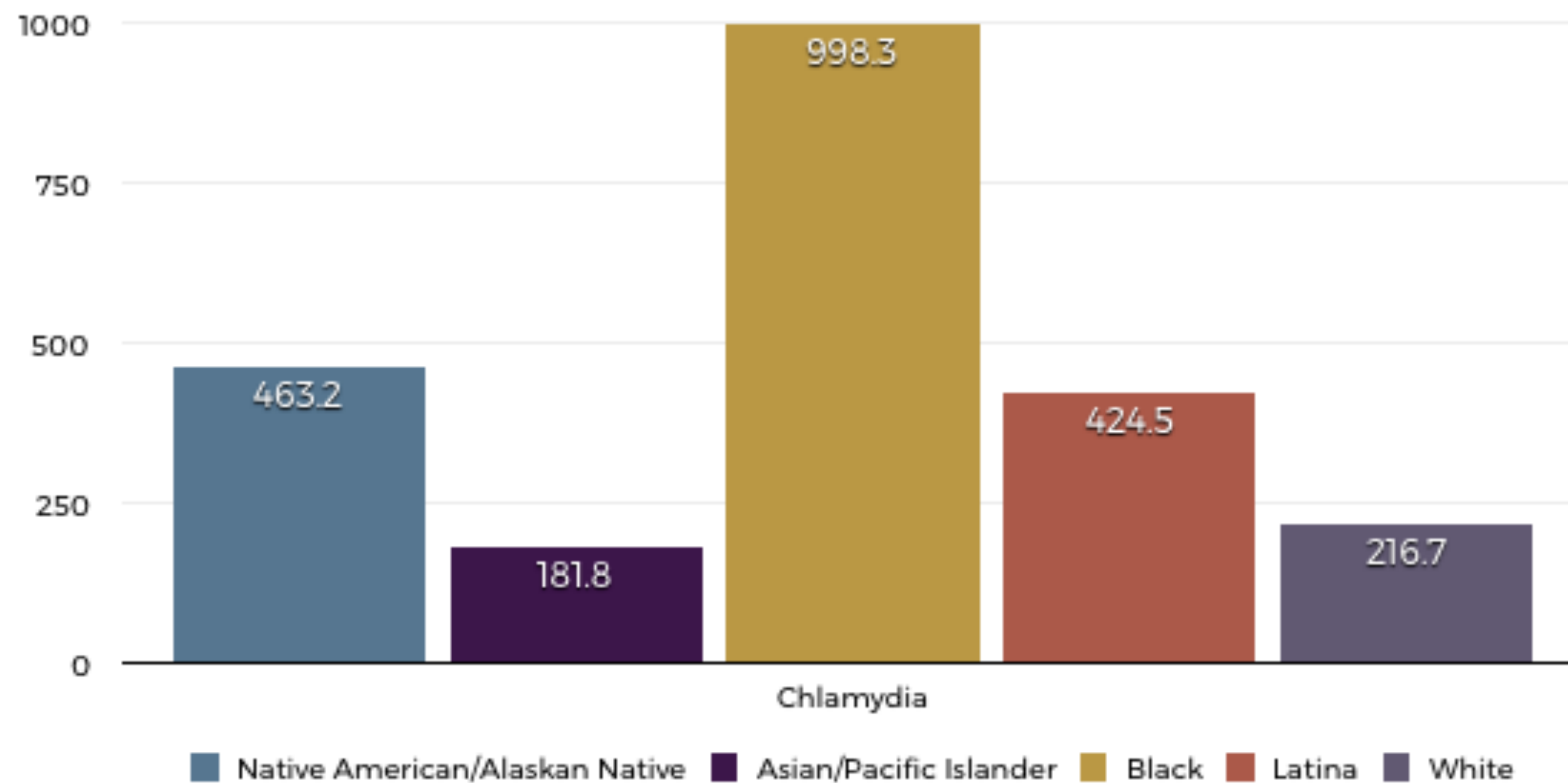
# INFANT MORTALITY

California Infant Mortality Rate

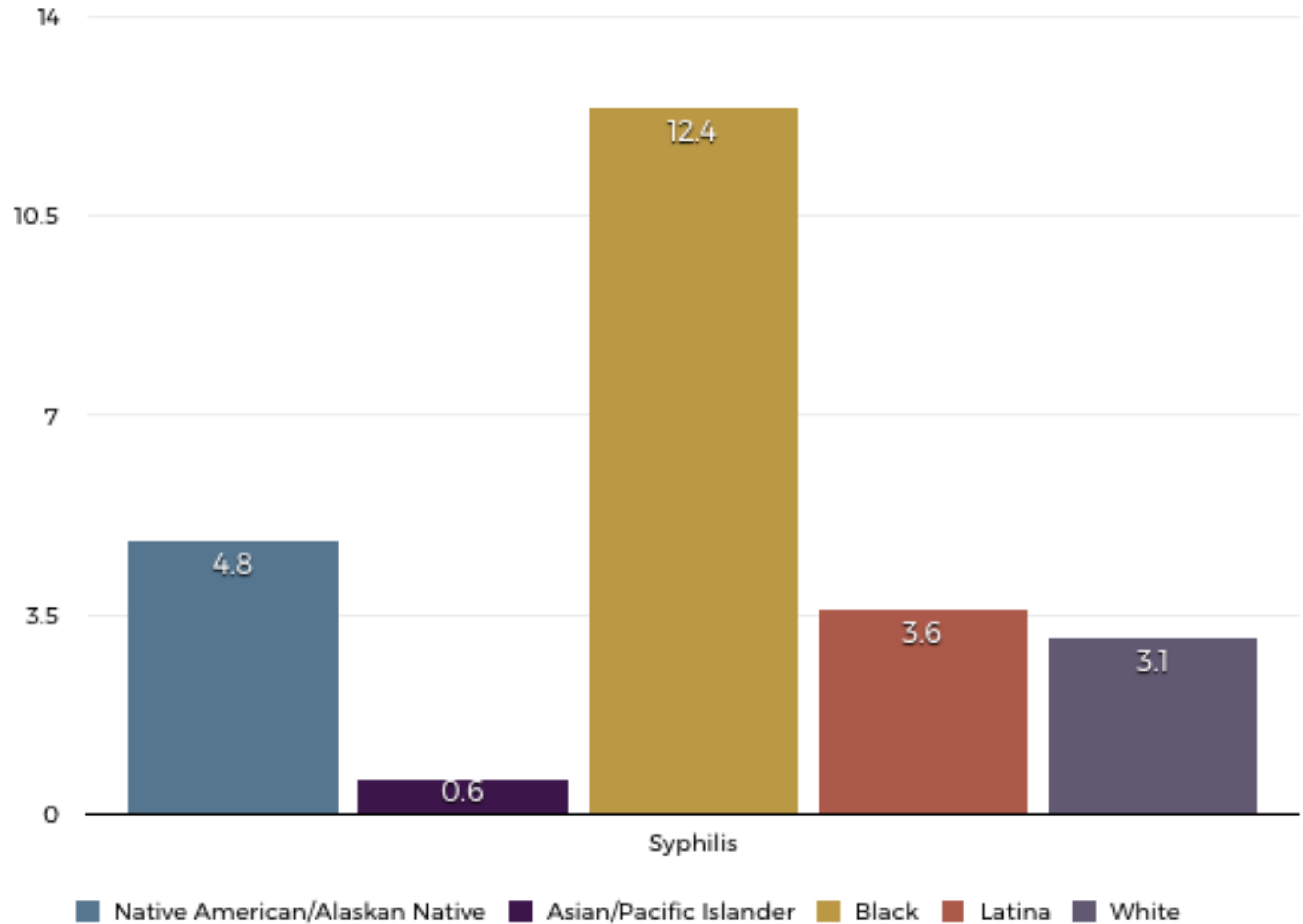




# SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

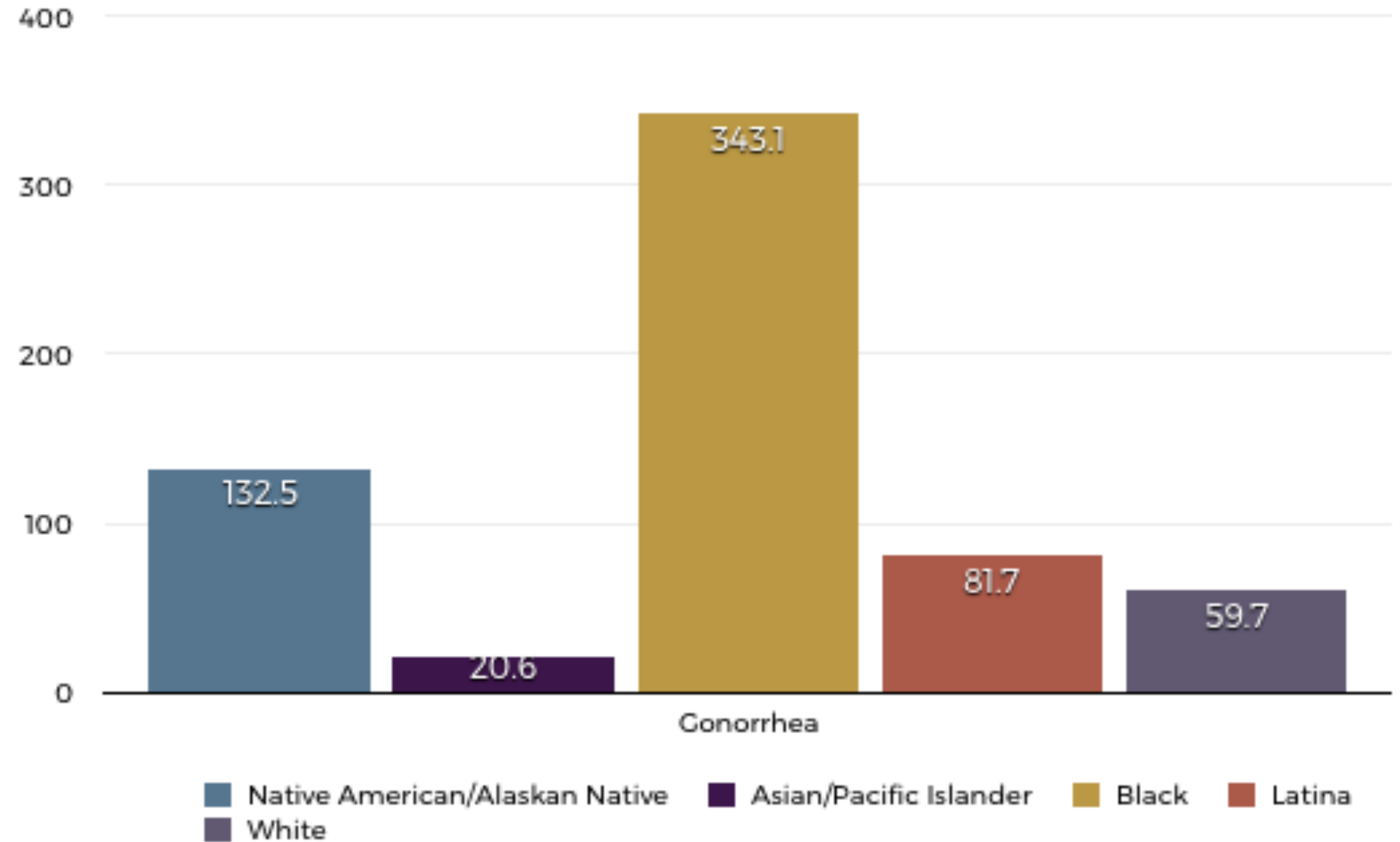


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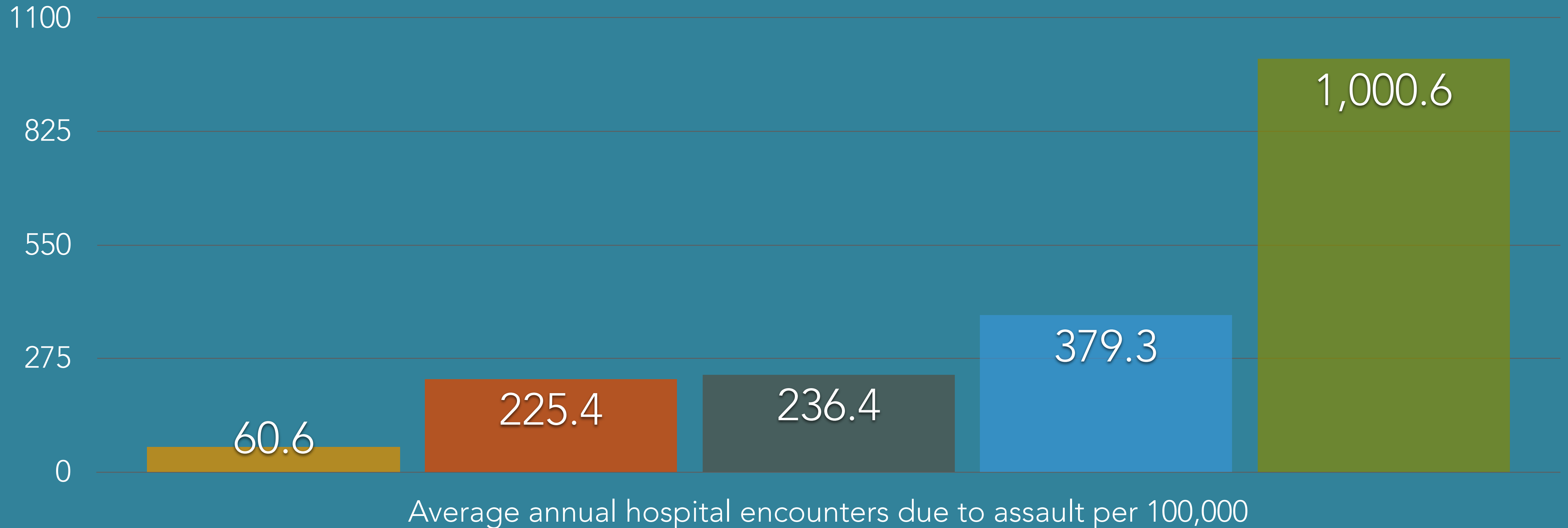
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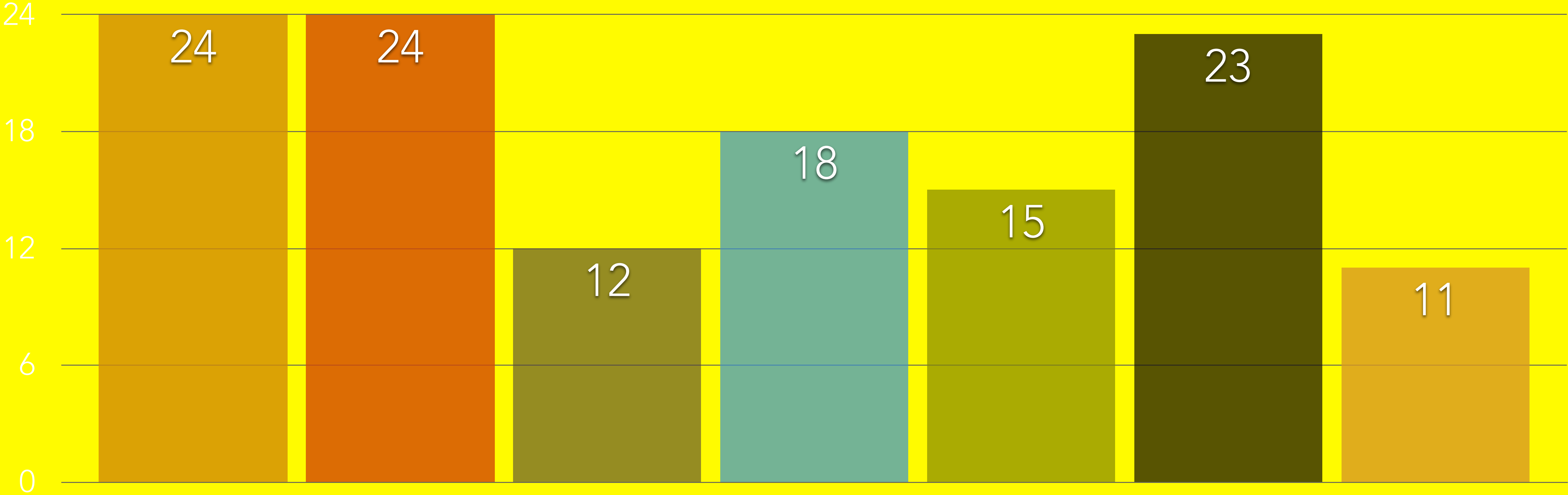
# HOSPITAL VISITS DUE TO ASSAULT

Asian and Pacific Islander White Latina Native American Black





# PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA FEMALE OF COLOR LIVING IN POVERTY



Percentage of California Female of Color Living in Poverty

## **DELAYED MEDICAL CARE**

Among California women who delayed medical care, just over half (51%) cited cost or lack of insurance as the reason: 59% of Latinas, 50% of White women, 37% of Asian-American women and 35% of African-American women delayed care due to cost or lack of insurance.



A close-up photograph of a woman with long, dark braids. She is resting her head on her right hand, with her fingers gently touching her face. She has a serene expression, looking slightly away from the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter.

**A MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR CALIFORNIA**





# POLICY SUGGESTIONS

1. Single Payer - vast majority of Black women, even with insurance, can't afford going to the doctor
2. A committee on Gene editing and Assisted Reproductive Technologies
3. Racial bias training for medical professionals/increasing people of color in the medical field
4. Better access for childcare, lactation counseling, home visitations for middle income families
5. Increase access to mental health
6. Address Sexual Harassment on and off campus, having clear reporting and consequences of sexual harassment and assault
7. Waive tuition at state schools for anyone coming from a family under 400 FPL.
8. Creating affordable housing for both low income and middle income adults, statewide rent control



1. It can't be policy by itself. We need culture shift
2. Implementation is just as important as policy
3. Black women and girls need to be more vocal about our needs.
4. Voting is only the beginning, not the end



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